Legal Aspect of Participatory Mapping on Formalisation of Right of Indigenous Community to Land in Indonesia

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SUMMARY
Participatory mapping has emerged as an alternative to collect spatial data. UNOSAT (United Nation Institute for Training and Research-Operational Satellite Applications Programme) are hosting five activities that are involving participatory mapping such as GISCorps, HPGloe, Google Map Maker, Open Street Map and GEO-PICTURES Asign application. Even participatory mapping has been employed for collecting real-time data within disaster management phases. In Indonesia, participatory mapping has also been utilised on the identification of 265 indigenous communities’ areas with total extent of 2.4 million hectares. Such an activity has been done by Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN/National Indigenous Community Alliance) in cooperation with Jaringan Kerja Pemetaan Partisipatif (JKPP/Participatory Mapping Working Group). Nonetheless, even though AMAN and JKPP have been able to map indigenous communities’ areas, it was predicted that in 2013 disputes over possession of indigenous communities’ areas would still escalate. On one hand, participatory mapping of indigenous communities’ territories has increased the degree of completeness of spatial data in Indonesia. On the other hand, such a mapping has amplified tensions among indigenous communities, as well as public and private sector. This is particularly due to the existence of incorrect perception on participatory mapping in almost every sector in Indonesia. Participatory mapping has been mostly done solely by the communities without involvement other sectors. This contradicts the semantics of participatory itself, which underlines sharing the weight of efforts on problem resolution. Having reviewed the existing regulations on spatial data, as well as protection of indigenous community in Indonesia, it is discovered that participatory mapping has not been well-regulated. Particularly in the process of defining boundary of indigenous communities’ territories, it is urged that adjudication should be embedded in such a process. Furthermore, milestones of participatory mapping, from employment of base map to quality assurance procedure, are highlighted in this paper. By providing comprehensive analysis on participatory mapping, it is expected that regulations on participatory mapping would soon be promulgated and participatory mapping would be able to act as an alternative for not only increasing the completeness of spatial data in Indonesia but also acting as a means for resolving the nation’s problems.